

Labor Market Analysis: 0514.20 – Medical Office Technology Medical Scribe – Occupational Skills Certificate

Certificate requiring 8 to fewer than 16 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, August 2024

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met <input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not Endorsed <input type="checkbox"/>
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupation¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the one identified middle-skill occupation in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the Bureau of Labor Statics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education level.

Recommendation: Due to two of three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 492 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2027. This number is greater than the three-year average of 190 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.
 - However, the medical transcriptionist (31-9094) SOC code includes various medical transcribing job titles, including medical scribes. Therefore, the number of annual job openings for medical scribes is likely overstated.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

- Over the past 12 months, there were 306 online job postings for medical scribes.

Living Wage

- \$16.67 is the typical entry-level hourly wages for medical transcriptionists, which is lower than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$18.10/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A postsecondary non-degree award is the typical entry-level education for medical transcriptionists, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 52% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 7 community colleges issued awards related to medical scribes in the greater LA/OC region.
- 190 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2021 and 2023.

Other postsecondary supply

- No educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in medical scribe programs over the past three years.

TARGET OCCUPATION

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one middle-skill occupation.

- **Medical Transcriptionists (31-9094)** Transcribe medical reports recorded by physicians and other healthcare practitioners using various electronic devices, covering office visits, emergency room visits, diagnostic imaging studies, operations, chart reviews, and final summaries. Transcribe dictated reports and translate abbreviations into fully understandable form. Edit as necessary and return reports in either printed or electronic form for review and signature, or correction.³

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for this occupation. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to decrease by 2% through 2027. However, there will be nearly 500 job openings per year through 2027 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. It is important to note that the medical transcriptionists (31-9094) SOC code includes various medical transcribing job titles and not solely medical scribes. Therefore, the data in Exhibit 1 is likely overstated for medical scribes.

² Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

³ [Medical Transcriptionists \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/31-9094)

The majority of jobs in 2022 for this middle-skill occupation (68%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁴

Geography	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	2022-2027 Change	2022-2027 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	1,951	1,876	(75)	(4%)	332
Orange	901	911	10	1%	161
Total	2,852	2,786	(66)	(2%)	492

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. The percentage of workers aged 55+ and automation index is included in order visualize upcoming replacement demand for these occupations.

Exhibit 2: Current employment, projected occupational demand, percentage of workers aged 55+, Los Angeles County⁵

Occupation	2022 Jobs	2027 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older*	Auto-mation Index**	% Full Time Workers***
Medical Transcriptionists	1,951	1,876	(4%)	332	27%	100.7	30%

*The average percentage of workers aged 55 and older across all occupations in the greater LA/OC region is 27%.

**The automation index captures an occupation’s risk of being affected by automation with a base of 100. An automation index greater than 100 indicates a higher-than average risk of automation; less than 100 indicates a lower-than-average risk.

*** Across all jobs in California, 81% of workers are employed full-time.

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for medical transcriptionists in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county’s self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The typical entry-level hourly wage for medical transcriptionists is \$16.67, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$18.09, which is nearly equal to the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

⁴ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁵ Ibid.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Medical Transcriptionists	\$16.67	\$17.08	\$18.09	\$35,500

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wage for medical transcriptionists is \$17.45, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$18.52, which is also lower than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

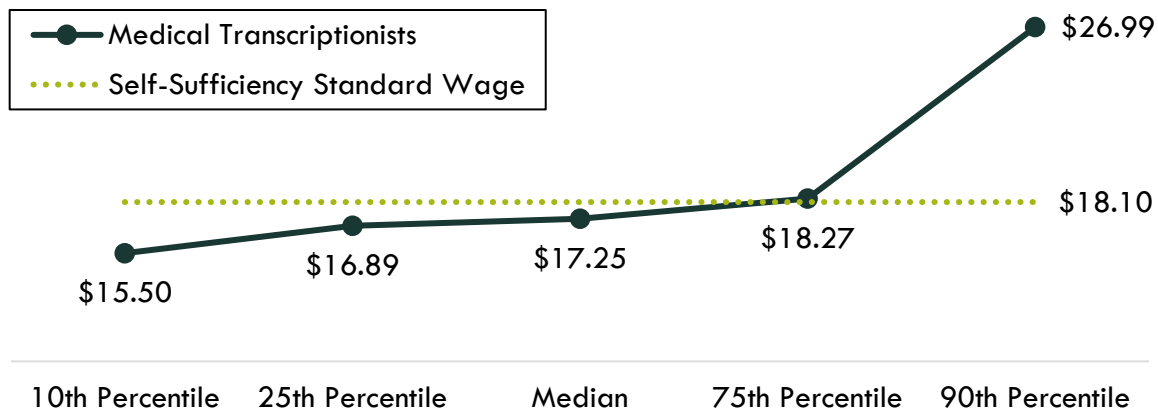
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Medical Transcriptionists	\$17.45	\$17.67	\$18.52	\$36,800

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$16.89; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for medical transcriptionists, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

In the past 12 months, 306 online job postings for medical scribes were posted in Los Angeles and Orange counties. The job postings were analyzed for the most common skills and employers associated with the target occupation in this report (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Most commonly requested job titles, skills, and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Skills	Top Employers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical records • Medical terminology • Electronic medical records • Medical prescription • Anatomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of California • Hoag Health System • ScribeAmerica • UCLA Health Systems • MediQuest Staffing*

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 40% of the medical scribe job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. The number and percentage of job postings by educational level appear in Exhibit 7.

Exhibit 7: Education levels requested in job postings for medical scribes, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	27	22%
Associate degree	10	8%
High school diploma or vocational training	84	69%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a postsecondary non-degree award as the typical entry-level education for medical transcriptionists (Exhibit 8). Furthermore, the national-level data indicates 52% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education level for the occupation in this report:

Exhibit 8: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Medical transcriptionists	Postsecondary non-degree award

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 9 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in programs that have historically trained for the occupations of interest. The colleges with the most completions in the region are Golden West, East LA, and Santa Monica.

Exhibit 9: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2021-2023

TOP Code	Program	College	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
0514.20	Medical Office Technology	East LA	1	-	-	0
		Glendale	9	27	17	18
		LA Harbor	1	-	-	0
		LA Trade-Tech	-	8	11	6
		Santa Monica	17	25	29	24
		LA Subtotal	28	60	57	48
Supply Subtotal/Average			28	60	57	48
1202.00	Hospital and Health Care Administration	Glendale	-	-	2	1
		LA Subtotal	-	-	2	1
		Golden West	185	83	-	89
		OC Subtotal	185	83	-	89
Supply Subtotal/Average			185	83	2	90
1208.10	Clinical Medical Assisting*	Saddleback	13	21	10	15
		OC Subtotal	13	21	10	15
Supply Subtotal/Average			185	83	2	90
1223.10	Health Information Coding	East LA	34	35	22	30
		LA Subtotal	34	35	22	30
		Saddleback	3	9	7	6
		OC Subtotal	3	9	7	6
Supply Subtotal/Average			37	44	29	37
Supply Total/Average			263	208	98	190

*Saddleback College has a Medical Scribe program coded under Clinical Medical Assisting (1208.10).

Other Postsecondary Supply

For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for medical scribes. In the past three years, no other postsecondary institutions in the region have conferred awards in medical scribe programs. However, this does not include online program awards, which are available at both California and out-of-state institutions. Medical Scribes Training Institute has a list of online training providers for medical scribes.⁶

⁶ [Medical Scribe Training - Medical Scribes Training Institute](#)

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POWERED BY

**DATA SOURCES**

- O*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

Important Disclaimer: All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the reported findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence, COE host District, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for applications or decisions made by recipient community colleges or their representatives based upon components or recommendations contained in this study.

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